Please amend the above-identified application pursuant to the Listing of Claims below which replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims.

The status of the claims is claims 1-12 are pending and claims 13-20 have been canceled. Of the pending claims, claims 1, 3 and 9 are currently amended, claims 2, 8, and 10-11 are as previously presented; and claims 4-7 and 12 are as originally filed.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for enabling use of a computer terminal in a network to access or otherwise participate in at least one network-related function and voice communication over the network, comprising:

a telephone handset including a microphone and a speaker coupled to provide signals to and receive signals from the computer terminal for voice communication;

a finger-image sensor coupled ~~to~~ at least to provide signals to the computer terminal relating to a finger-image sensed by the finger-image sensor;

means for electronically authenticating a finger-image sensed by a finger-image sensor based on the finger-image-related signals provided to that computer terminal; and

means responsive to the authenticating means for enabling the computer terminal in the network to access or otherwise participate in the performance of at least one network-related function and voice communication over the network at least from each computer terminal for which a sensed finger-image was authenticated.

2. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the enabling means enables voice communication to and from only each terminal for which a sensed finger-image was authenticated.

3. (Currently Amended) A system for enabling use of a computer terminal in a network to access or otherwise participate in at least one network-related function and voice communication between computer terminals in the network, comprising:

a plurality of computer terminals in the network;

a microphone and a speaker coupled to each of the plurality of computer terminals to provide signals to and receive signals from the computer terminal for voice communication;

a finger-image sensor at least to provide signals to the computer terminal relating to a finger-image sensed by the finger-image sensor;

means for electronically authenticating a finger-image sensed by a finger-image sensor based on the finger-image-related signals provided to that computer terminal; and

means responsive to the authenticating means for enabling the computer terminal for which a sensed finger-image was authenticated to access or otherwise participate in the performance of at least one network-related function and voice communications over the network.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1 or 3 wherein at least one of the computer terminals includes the means for authenticating.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1 or 3 comprising a computer in the network, other than the computer terminals, that include the means for authenticating.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1 or 3 wherein at least one of the computer terminals includes the means responsive to the authenticating means.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1 or 3 comprising a computer in the network, other than the computer terminals, that includes the means responsive to the authenticating means.

8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 comprising a handset incorporating the microphone and the speaker, wherein the handset is keypadless and each computer terminal includes a computer input device by which information for accessing or otherwise participating in voice communications over the network is input to the computer terminal.

9. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for voice communication over a network through a computer terminal and for biometric identification, comprising:

a telephone handset including:

a microphone;

a speaker;

a finger-image sensor;

circuitry coupled to the microphone and speaker which at least converts between analog and digital signals; and

an interface coupling the finger-image sensor and the circuitry with the computer terminal; ~~and~~

means associated with at least one of the computer terminal and the network for electronically authenticating a finger-image sensed by the finger-image sensor based on the finger-image-related signals provided to that computer terminal; and

means associated with at least one of the computer terminal and the network responsive to the authenticating means for enabling the computer terminal in the network to participate in voice communication over the network at least from each computer terminal for which a sensed finger-image was authenticated.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the interface comprises:

a first universal serial bus (USB) interface coupled to the integrated circuitry;

a second USB interface coupled to the finger-image sensor;

the interface coupling the finger-image sensor and the circuitry with the computer terminal comprising a USB hub coupled to the first and second USB interfaces.

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 10, comprising a cable coupled to the USB hub and connectable to a USB port of a computer terminal.

12. (Original) The telephone handset of claim 10, wherein the circuitry comprises a codec.

Claims 13-20: canceled (without prejudice to pursuing these claims and the subject matter thereof in a continuing application).